(a) whether the ODA Loan Package from Government of Japan for Integrated Forestry Development Project for financial year 2003-2004 has since been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The project has been included in the list of projects for consideration of Government of Japan for ODA Loan package for 2003-2004. The decision on selection of projects will be taken by the Government of Japan, after the visit of their Mission to India.

Recovery of Air Travel Tax from Aviation Companies

†*140. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various aviation companies do not pay the inland air travel tax in time;

(b) if so, how much payment is outstanding against each of such companies as on date; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to make companies pay the tax on time?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Airlines that have not paid their inland air travel tax (IATT) in time, and from whom dues, on this account, are outstanding as on 22-7-2003, are listed below:

Sr. No.	Name of the Airline	Dues outstanding (Rs. in Crores)			
		IATT	Interest	Penalty	Total
1.	M/s Raj Aviation Private Limited	0.47	0.96	0.15	1.58
2.	M/s Continental Aviation Private Limited	0.75	1.64	0	2.39
3.	M/s East West Airlines	2.53	6.49	0.26	9.29
4.	M/s Modiluft limited (since taken over by M/s Royal Airways Limited)	0	0	14.32	14.32

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

5.	M/s UP Airways	0.68	0.88	0.54	2.10
6.	M/s VIF Airways Limited	0.21	0.32	0.15	0.68
7.	M/s Skyline NEPC Airlines	4.07	6.26	9.52	19.85
8.	M/s NEPC Airline	1.82	2.58	2.40	6.80
9.	M/s Air Asiatic Limited	0.58	1.41	0.18	2.17
10.	M/s Gujarat Airways	0.57	1.44	0	2.01
11.	M/s City Link Airways	0.60	1.16	0.18	1.94
	TOTAL	12.28	23.14	27.70	63.13

The payment of IATT is monitored by the Government through scrutiny of monthly returns to ensure that the airlines pay the tax in time. In case any Company delays payment or defaults in payment, it is liable to pay interest at the rate of 20% per annum and penalty which shall not be less than 20% of the tax not paid and can even go up to three times of the amount of tax due. In addition to the above, statutory provisions exist for arrest or distrainment of aircraft of the company. To make the provisions more stringent, the Government have, recently, through the Finance Act, 2003, acquired powers to arrest and prosecute the offenders.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Air Services Among the Capitals of NE States

872. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to introduce air services among the capitals of the North-Eastern States;

(b) whether Government have been thinking of increasing the airbus and boeing services between Agartala and Kolkata and of decreasing ATR services, considering the geographically isolated location of Tripura; and